

New HIV infections (including AIDS cases), 2019-2020

Lowcountry Public Health Region includes eleven counties: Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg.

HIV in the Lowcountry Public Health Region (PHR) For the two-year period 2019-2020, 338 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. This represents 23 percent of the total cases diagnosed in South Carolina.

By gender, 80 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases were men; 20 percent were among women.

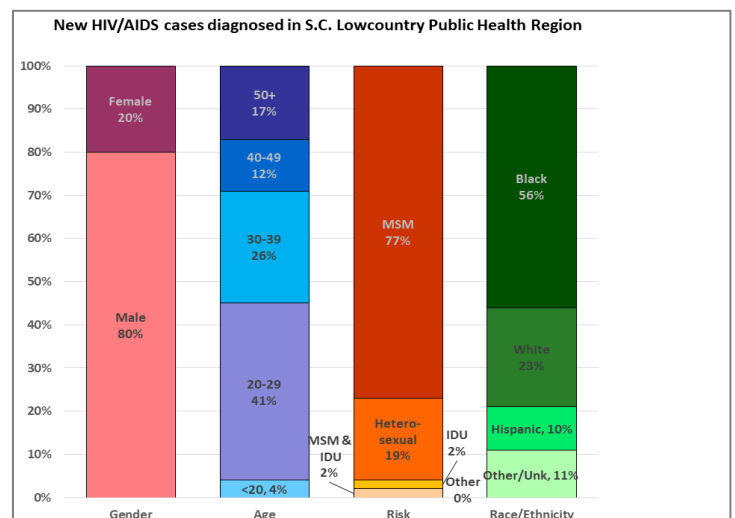
By age, the majority of new HIV/AIDS cases were among people ages 20-29 (41 percent), 26 percent were among people age 30-39, 12 percent were among people age 40-49, and 17 percent were age 50 and up. Four percent of new cases were under the age of 20.

By risk, among the 385 people who reported a risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion of recent infections (77 percent), followed by those indicating heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV (19 percent); two percent reported Injection drug use (IDU); and two percent were the combined risk of MSM and IDU.

By race/ethnicity, among people newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, 56 percent were African American; 23 percent were white; and ten percent were Hispanic. In 2019-2020, African Americans had a case rate 5.5 times greater than whites in the Lowcountry PHR.

Among women recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, most were African American (69 percent); 19 percent were White; and four percent were Hispanic. Of the 50 women reporting risk, 90 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV; five percent reported IDU. Five percent reported other as their exposure to HIV.

Among men recently diagnosed in the Lowcountry PHR, 53 percent were African American; 24 percent were white; and eleven percent were Hispanic. Of the 212 men reporting risk, 92 percent were men who have sex with men, five percent were exposed through heterosexual sex; one percent reported Injection drug use; two percent were both MSM and IDU.



Total People Living with HIV/AIDS through December 2020

As of December 2020, there were 4,547 residents of the Lowcountry Public Health Region living with a diagnosis of HIV (including AIDS). This represents 23 percent of the S.C. total. Of these, 3,309 were men and 1,238 were women. Most people (2,267) were ages 50 and over; 771 were ages 40-49; 947 were ages 30-39; 495 were ages 20-29; 67 were children and teens under 20 years of age.

As with new infections, African Americans are disproportionately impacted. Most of the people living with HIV in the Lowcountry Public Health Region were African American men (46 percent), 22 percent were White men, 21 percent were African American women and four percent were White women. Seven percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men & women).

Of the 3,695 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 58 percent reported a risk of men who have sex with men; followed by men and women exposed through heterosexual sex (30 percent); Injection drug use (seven percent); and the combined risk of men who have sex with men and Injection drug use (four percent).

S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations

Care, treatment and prevention services for persons living with HIV/AIDS are a top priority for the State of South Carolina's HIV Program.

Among remaining priority populations for HIV prevention services:		
S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations ^(1,2)	2019/2020 Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (260 Total) *	People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2020 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (3,772 Total)
2. African American MSM	37%	30%
3. African American WSM	10%	14%
4. African American MSW	3%	7%
5. White MSM	20%	18%
6. IDU	2%	6%
7. ♦Hispanic/Latino ³	13%	7%

***Caution: Due to small numbers, must interpret recent case proportions with caution.**

NOTES:

1. Populations: MSM = Men who have Sex with Men; IDU = Injection Drug User; WSM = Women who have Sex with Men; MSW = Men who have Sex with Women.
2. Priority Populations are a subset of the Epi Profile data and are not directly comparable to incidence and prevalence counts/percentages.
3. Ethnicity, in and of itself, is not a risk factor for HIV; however, in the context of Priority Populations, Hispanic/Latino is included as a 'Risk' for reporting purposes.

Source: SCDHEC, STD/HIV Division 12/2021

For more information visit: www.scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/hiv-aids-std-data-and-reports
or call the S.C. AIDS/STD Hotline toll free at 1-800-322-AIDS